

Message Text

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15

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 A-01

MMO-01 SS-15 /046 W

----- 001755

R 161621Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6713

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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STATE FOR A/SY AND NEA/EX

ACCRA FOR RCO

BEIRUT FOR RTC AND RSS FROM OIC/RTC GILLIAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC MO

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICE AT
CASABLANCA

1. SUMMARY: THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT CASABLANCA CAN PROVIDE GOOD SUPPORT AND EXCELLENT PHYSICAL SPACE FOR A TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICE (TSO). EMBASSY IS DEVELOPING COST ESTIMATES. CASABLANCA IS RECOMMENDED OVER TUNIS FOR TSO LOCATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PROPOSED SPACE: A 2100 SQUARE FOOT AREA IN THE CONSULATE BASEMENT IS PROPOSED FOR LAB, STORAGE AND SHOP. HALLWAY AND TOILET ARE INCLUDED. DARKROOM DRAIN AND WATER CONNECTIONS ARE FEASIBLE. OFFICE SPACE, DIRECTLY ABOVE ON CONSULATE GROUND FLOOR, IS 610 SQUARE FEET PARTITIONED 50/25/25 PERCENT. ADDITIONAL UNSECURED STORAGE SPACE WITHIN THE BUILDING IS AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

3. REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS: THE BUILDING IS NEW, MODERN
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AND IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. ALL AREAS ARE WELL-LIT. THE

FOLLOWING ASSUMES ASSIGNMENT OF AN MSG DETACHMENT:

(A) INSTALL VAULT DOOR AT ENTRY TO BASEMENT AREA.

(B) SUPPLEMENT THE CENTRAL REVERSIBLE HEAT PUMP SYSTEM TO EXTEND HEATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING TO THE REMAINDER OF THE PROPOSED LAB/SHOP AREA.

4. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS: ASSIGNMENT OF AN MSG DETACHMENT TO CASABLANCA FOR 24-HOUR COVERAGE HAS BEEN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. POST CONSIDERS THAT PROPOSED INCREASE IN PERSONNEL AND CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ADDS WEIGHT TO THE ALREADY SUFFICIENT REASONS FOR AN MSG DETACHMENT, AND WOULD RENEW THE REQUEST. IF MARINES ARE NOT ASSIGNED, BELIEVE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING 12-METER LONG BASEMENT PARTITION TO VAULT STANDARDS, MAKE OTHER MINOR PARTITIONING CHANGES, TREAT A/C DUCTING, AND TREAT ONE EXTERIOR OPENING SO THAT THREE EXTERIOR WALLS AND NEW PARTITION WOULD FORM BASEMENT VAULT. NEW VAULT WOULD TOTAL ABOUT 2500 SQUARE FEET AND ENCOMPASS TSO AREA, EMERGENCY GENERATOR ROOM AND ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION ROOM.

5. SECRETARY: THE BULK OF THE POST'S CLASSIFIED FILES ARE MAINTAINED IN THE VAULT BY THE CRO. TELEPHONE RECEPTIONIST DUTIES FOR THE ENTIRE CONSULATE ARE PERFORMED BY FSLE IN THE MAIN LOBBY. THE POST NOW HAS ONE FULL-TIME FSS SECRETARIAL POSITION AND ONE CRO/SECRETARY. THE CLASSIFIED WORKLOAD IS LIGHT. ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADMIN OFFICER/CRO HAS BEEN REQUESTED, WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE SECOND SECRETARIAL POSITION'S C&R DUTIES TO BACK-UP ONLY. THIS WOULD PERMIT ABSORBING ADDED SECRETARIAL, C&R AND ADMIN LOAD GENERATED BY TSO WITHOUT ADDITION OF ANOTHER SECRETARY.

6. TRAVEL SUPPORT:

(A) AIRLINE CONNECTIONS ARE GOOD WITH DIRECT FLIGHTS TO LISBON, MADRID, ROME, AND NORTH AFRICAN POSTS. RABAT AND TANGIER WOULD USUALLY BE REACHED BY SURFACE. POST NORMALLY PROVIDES AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION.

(B) TICKETING IS DONE BY THE LOCAL TWA OFFICE FROM GTR PREPARED BY CONSULATE. TICKETS ARE NORMALLY IN HAND WITHIN TWO DAYS. CONFIRMATION OF CONTINUATION LEGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRING TELEX REPLIES MAY TAKE LONGER.

(C) POUCHING. THE POST IS SERVED WEEKLY BY FRDCO ROUTE 103 FRANKFURT/MADRID/LISBON/CASABLANCA/RABAT/CASABLANCA/LISBON/MADRID/FRANKFURT. UNCLASSIFIED POUCH DISPATCH IS UPON DEMAND PLUS A SCHEDULED WEEKLY SERVICE TO WASHINGTON. POUCHES FOR BULKY TSO SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT WOULD BE MADE UP AND HELD FOR PICKUP WITHIN THE BASEMENT (CLASSIFIED MATERIAL BEHIND TSO VAULT DOOR) RATHER THAN BE TRANSPORTED TO SECOND

FLOOR C&R OR GROUND FLOOR MAILROOM.

(D) VISAS FOR SPAIN, AND ALGERIA CAN BE OBTAINED WITHIN TWO DAYS. LIBYAN VISAS MUST BE OBTAINED AT RABAT AND REQUIRE ABOUT ONE WEEK.

(E) TRAVEL VOUCHERS ARE PREPARED AT RABAT FROM INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE TRAVELLER. REIMBURSEMENT IS BY CHECK FROM RFC PARIS AND WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER SUBMISSION OF VOUCHER. CONSULATE CASHIER PROVIDES U.S. OR LOCAL CURRENCY. TRAVELLER'S CHECKS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE KENITRA NAVAL FACILITY.

7. COST DATA IS BEING DEVELOPED BY EMBASSY AND WILL BE SUBMITTED NEXT WEEK.

8. LOCAL PROCUREMENT: MOST ELECTRICAL AND HARDWARE NEEDS CAN BE SATISFIED LOCALLY. SOME CONSUMER-ELECTRONICS PARTS ARE AVAILABLE.

9. LIVING CONDITIONS: CASABLANCA IS A FIRST-RATE PLACE TO LIVE WITH THE ADVANTAGES OF A SOPHISTICATED LOCAL ECONOMY, GOOD HOUSING, AT-POST ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOL THROUGH 7TH GRADE, PLUS ACCESS TO FPO AND THE NAVY PX AT KENITRA.

10. ADDENDA: FLOOR PLANS OF THE PROPOSED AREA WILL BE FORWARDED TO SY/T BY POUCH.

11. CONCLUSIONS: THE CONSULATE PHYSICAL PLANT, SECRETARIAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND GENERAL SERVICES SUPPORT CAN EASILY BE ADAPTED TO MEET TSO NEEDS. THE MAJOR PART OF THE COSTS WILL BE FURNISHINGS AND HOUSING.

12. COMPARISON WITH TUNIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: THE TSO COULD FUNCTION SUCCESSFULLY AT EITHER TUNIS OR CASABLANCA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENCES IN COSTS AND TRAVEL SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT GREAT. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN CONVENIENCE OF TRAVEL TO AREA SERVICED. BOTH POSTS OFFER GENEROUS SPACE, BUT CASABLANCA BUILDING IS GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND IS SUPERIOR IN QUALITY AND DEGREE OF READINESS. IF MARINES ARE ASSIGNED, SECURITY AT CASABLANCA WILL BE BETTER. PHYSICAL ISOLATION OF THE SPACE AT TUNIS LEADS TO THE NECESSITY FOR A FULL-TIME SECRETARIAL POSITION; ADEQUATE SECRETARIAL HELP IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT CASABLANCA. LIVING CONDITIONS AT CASABLANCA ARE SUPERIOR. PROXIMITY TO U.S. NAVY FACILITIES WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALL BUT PARTICULARLY SO THE THE TSO SEABEES. RECOMMEND TSO OFFICE BE ESTABLISHED AT CASABLANCA. COON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT04964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750360-0016
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751047/aaaabpor.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICE AT CASABLANCA
TAGS: ASEC, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006